



The Town of WESTFORD Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2009

Dear Westford Residents,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager
978-692-5500

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Special Town Meeting

Perchlorate Remediation

There will be a Special Town Meeting on July 30, 2009, 7:30PM in the Abbot Gymnasium.

Visit westfordma.gov for current news and information.

There appears to be no slowing of activity this spring and summer in Westford! In May, the Board of Selectmen voted to award a contract to Wescon LLC to construct an affordable housing subdivision on approximately 5 acres of land off Boston Post Road. Subsequently a Special Town Meeting was called by Citizens' Petition which was held on June 18th, 2009. Almost 500 registered voters attended the meeting where the Citizen's Petition asked voters to place a 17.42 acres parcel on Boston Road into conservation land. At the town meeting, the selectmen made a motion to amend the main motion to include language that the town would transfer the care, custody, control and management of the parcel to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes, after the board conveyed a portion of the land pursuant to the Request for Proposals the town had issued for the affordable housing development. The town voted to approve the amended motion 335 to 112. The town subsequently provided a notice of contract award to Wescon, LLC.

At their June 23rd meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to call another Special Town Meeting which will be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 30th, 2009 for the purpose of asking the voters to appropriate funding to contain the perchlorate

plume, which is continuing to travel. The selectmen will be asking the town meeting to fund upgrading the Cote well, installing and bringing the Stepinski well online, installing transmission lines, and constructing a treatment plant for the additional flow. The reason for this is that the perchlorate plume has spread beyond the Cote well and is approaching the Stepinski well location. We believe if we can pump the perchlorate contaminated water out of the ground and treat it, before it passes the Stepinski well, we will prevent the perchlorate from contaminating the rest of the aquifer, and ultimately reaching the Depot well. If we are able to get town meeting appropriation prior to August 1st, we can apply for stimulus funds, which include low interest rate financing, and possible forgiveness of principal up to 30% of the project costs. I have already spoken with and written our Lieutenant Governor, Tim Murray, requesting this project be designated as a high priority, if it receives town meeting approval.

Over the past year, our outstanding technology department, specifically Tom Laflamme and Christopher McClure, created and developed a web-based permitting system. Following filing copyright protection, we issued a Request for Proposals, evaluated the response, and subsequently negotiated a contract with

Hawkeye Government Solutions to market, sell, license and support our own Municipal Permitting System to other municipalities, not just in Massachusetts, but throughout New England. This product has the potential to bring in significant revenue for the town. For more information, visit our website at permits.westfordma.gov.

After a few years of meetings, the Planning Board approved the application of Westford LC for construction of the Cornerstone Square project. This project is a multi-use commercial development, to be located at 83 Boston Road, and will consist of approximately 230,000 square feet of new mixed-use retail, personal services, office space, restaurants, and related infrastructure.

In closing, please mark your calendars for our July 30th special town meeting. It is vitally important that we attain a quorum to allow you to vote on this very important and time-sensitive article.

Thanks so much and enjoy the beautiful weather we are finally experiencing!

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross



PERCHLORATE REMEDIATION PROJECT UPDATE

Water Department



"The Board of Selectmen has called a Special Town Meeting (STM) to be held on July 30, 2009 for the purpose of appropriating funding for installing the Stepinski well and associated transmission mains and constructing a new perchlorate treatment system."

The Town of Westford has been responding to perchlorate contamination issues in the area surrounding Snake Meadow Hill since 2004. The Town and Maine Drilling and Blasting were identified as Potentially Responsible Parties in the Notice of Responsibility (NOR) issued in October 2007 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

Based upon well sample results and the MassDEP perchlorate limit of 2 parts per billion (ppb) for potable water, the perchlorate contamination has adversely impacted private wells and one of the Town's public water supply wells (Cote Well). In response to the observed perchlorate contamination, the Town has: 1. installed emergency treatment for the Cote Well to allow limited use, 2. extended the public water supply to those residents along Groton Road that had perchlorate above 2 ppb, and 3. installed treatment at two new wells located at the Town's Highway Facility to remove perchlorate at the source.

Current data now shows that the perchlorate plume is approaching the site of the proposed new public water supply well, Stepinski Well. Therefore, the Town has determined that bringing the Stepinski Well online will help prevent the plume from further contaminating the aquifer downstream. The Town is evaluating funding opportunities, including negotiating a settlement with Maine Drilling and Blasting, applying for Stimulus Funding, and taking advantage of low interest State Revolving Funds for the installation of the Stepinski Well and the construction of a new perchlorate treatment system. The perchlorate treatment system would treat water from both the Cote and Stepinski Wells and would allow Cote Well to run at its original capacity.

The Board of Selectmen has called a Special Town Meeting (STM) to be held on July 30, 2009 for the purpose of appropriating funding for installing the Stepinski well and associated transmission mains and constructing

a new perchlorate treatment system. Should the appropriation be approved, the Town can then apply for State Stimulus Funding which can include financing of approximately 1% and the potential for principal forgiveness of up to 30%.

State approval of Stimulus Funds is contingent upon approval of the local appropriation at STM. The State may approval funding for either or both of the projects listed in the above paragraph. Should the Town be awarded funds, these projects, along with the existing treatment at the Highway Facility, will be a significant step in remediating the perchlorate contamination. The Town encourages residents to attend STM 7:30 pm at the Abbot School on July 30, 2009.

www.westfordma.gov/water



July is Smart Irrigation Month

Water Department

The Water Department encourages all homeowners and commercial facility managers to identify WaterSense Certified Irrigation Partners to design, install and maintain their landscape irrigation systems. WaterSense irrigation partners are certified

through WaterSense labeled programs that test their knowledge of water-efficient practices and technologies.

To locate a WaterSense Irrigation Partner visit: www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/lists/irr_partners.htm

To learn more about Smart Irrigation Month visit: www.irrigation.org/sim



Westford Water Department Honored for Drinking Water Excellence

The Westford Water Department was honored in a ceremony at the Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton as part of Drinking Water Awards Day on June 25th. Westford Water took home two awards during the festivities including a Water Conservation Award and a Public Water System Award. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection uses the ceremony to recognize community water systems and nontransient-noncommunity (NTNC) water systems for their outstanding performance in 2008.

There were 25 total winners this year split

among NTNC, small community (<3,301 population), medium and large community, and consecutive systems. Westford was one of ten medium and large community systems that won the water system award, and one of two systems that won the conservation award. Westford was the only system to win two awards.

Scores were tabulated on a point system based on several criteria including: 1. compliance with the drinking water regulations for all of calendar year 2008, 2. no enforcement actions for the past 5 years, 3. meeting Water Management Act standards for

unaccounted for water and residential gallons per capita day, and 4. utilizing eDEP to electronically submit water quality data.

The Westford Water Department is very proud of these accomplishments and strives to protect and supply safe and fit water to the residents of Westford with superior levels of compliance.

"To locate a WaterSense Irrigation Partner visit: www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/lists/irr_partners.htm"



Senior Center News

The Senior Center has been temporarily relocated to 10 Church Street. We are at the rear entrance to the United Methodist Church on the bottom floor and we have settled in nicely. We will be calling this our home for the next 12 months while renovations are ongoing at Cameron.

Our telephone numbers have remained the same with the main number of 978 692-5523. We are still using PO Box 2223 as our mailing address.

Our office hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and we are now open Friday evenings from 6:30 – 9 p.m. for BINGO and cards. We were unable to find space for the thrift shop at our present location.

On July 15th at 1 p.m. we will offer Mahjong for the first time with instruction available. If interested please attend and we will determine a schedule for this popular activity.

Programs and services including the food pantry remain with us.

The Food Pantry is now open the third Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month for pick-up. Donations of the following items are needed for the food pantry at this time and are accepted during normal business hours: cereal, tuna, juice drinks, beef stew, canned chicken, and Spam.

All residents age 60 and over should be receiving our newsletter. Please call if you are not receiving the newsletter and request to be placed on the mailing list. This summer we are issuing one July/August edition that was mailed at the end of June. Please keep it for reference through the summer. Watch for our next newsletter in September.

As the hot days of summer approach, Judy and Annette are working with Town officials to offer a cooling location available if needed. Information on where and when may be obtained by contacting our Social Worker at 978-399-2325 or evenings and

weekends at 978 692-2161.

The renovation and expansion project began on June 15th. Work is well underway removing the old oil tank, installing new septic system and creating a storm water collection system.

We're excited to watch the progress of this construction and pleased to be able to continue to provide services to our residents during the interim. We all look forward to seeing many of you in our new surroundings and will be happy to show you around.

www.westfordma.gov/coa



"The renovation and expansion project began on June 15th. Work is well underway removing the old oil tank, installing new septic system and creating a storm water collection system."



Westford Job Seekers Network

J.V. Fletcher Library

Are you about to start a job search or are you in the midst of looking for a new job? Most people know that the best way to find a job is through networking. The J. V. Fletcher Library is offering a new weekly service, the "Westford Job Seekers Network", starting on Wednesday, July 8 in the newly-renovated Mary Atwood Hall from 2-3:30 p.m.

Come and expand your network of business contacts and discover new job opportunities. Many of our meetings will include guest speakers who are experts in the job search process or in career development. The meetings will also connect you with other members who are in job transition and can become part of your support group. You will learn about the most effective job search techniques and how to

use them. So bring your resumes and elevator speech and start networking.

Mango Languages Database: We're thrilled to offer this new language database, following Rosetta Stone's decision to no longer offer subscriptions to public libraries. Mango uses real-life situations and actual conversations to more effectively teach a new language. By listening to, and repeating after, material designed from native conversations, you'll not only learn the individual words and phrases, you'll know how they're used in practical situations and conversations.

Language lessons are available in Brazilian Portuguese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, ESL Brazilian Portuguese (English for

Brazilian Portuguese speakers), ESL Polish (English for Polish speakers), and ESL Spanish (English for Spanish speakers). This database can be accessed from the Library or home via the Library's web site.

www.westfordlibrary.org



"Come and expand your network of business contacts and discover new job opportunities."



For Government by Government

The Town of Westford, MA awarded Hawkeye Government Solutions from Milford, MA a three year contract on July 7, 2009 to market, sell, license and support Westford's Municipal Permitting System. This contract is a first of its kind and is the culmination of a thorough RFP (Request for Proposals) process and many months of work.

Cities and Towns are feeling the pinch during these tough economic times. Local leaders must weigh layoffs and reductions in service against daunting budget cuts. The Town of Westford is looking at creative ways to meet these challenges, and its new Permitting System model is one of the most groundbreaking.

In January of 2008, the Westford Technology Department developed a Systems Integration model to manage electronic documents and land records. This web-based system linked information from Westford's GIS (Geographic Information System), DMS (Document Management System), and Permitting Software.

Not happy with the way the existing Permitting Software integrated into the other modules, Database Administrator Tom Laflamme began work on what would become Westford's own permitting solution. This system was originally intended for internal use and was built as part of Westford's Systems Integration model. Westford's permitting solution was built around the feedback of the people actually using the software to be role based, easy to use, secure, scalable and accessible from any web browser.

Christopher McClure, Technology Director, recognized the potential value Westford's Permitting system had to other cities and towns. After some initial positive feedback from new Town Manager Jodi Ross and other communities, the Westford Technology Department drafted a strategy to provide a quality permitting system to other cities and towns in the region and generate revenue for Westford.

"Partnering with a private company provides many benefits to the Town of

Technology Department

Westford," explains McClure. "It allows our permitting system to grow far beyond what the town could sustain with its own resources, protects the town from liability and greatly increases the potential for revenue. Many cities and towns are looking at regionalization as a way of sharing costs. This software fits perfectly into that model and offers a quality, affordable solution developed by government for government."

Hawkeye Government Solutions was impressed by the commercial quality of the product as compared to other permitting systems already on the market. Hawkeye responded to Westford's RFP with a detailed plan to market the software in the New England Area. With the contract signed, Westford is eager to get to work making this partnership a success.

Westford has been using this software on the Town's Website since October of 2008 with great success. Visit www.westfordma.gov, permits.westfordma.gov or www.westfordma.gov/gis for current links and information.